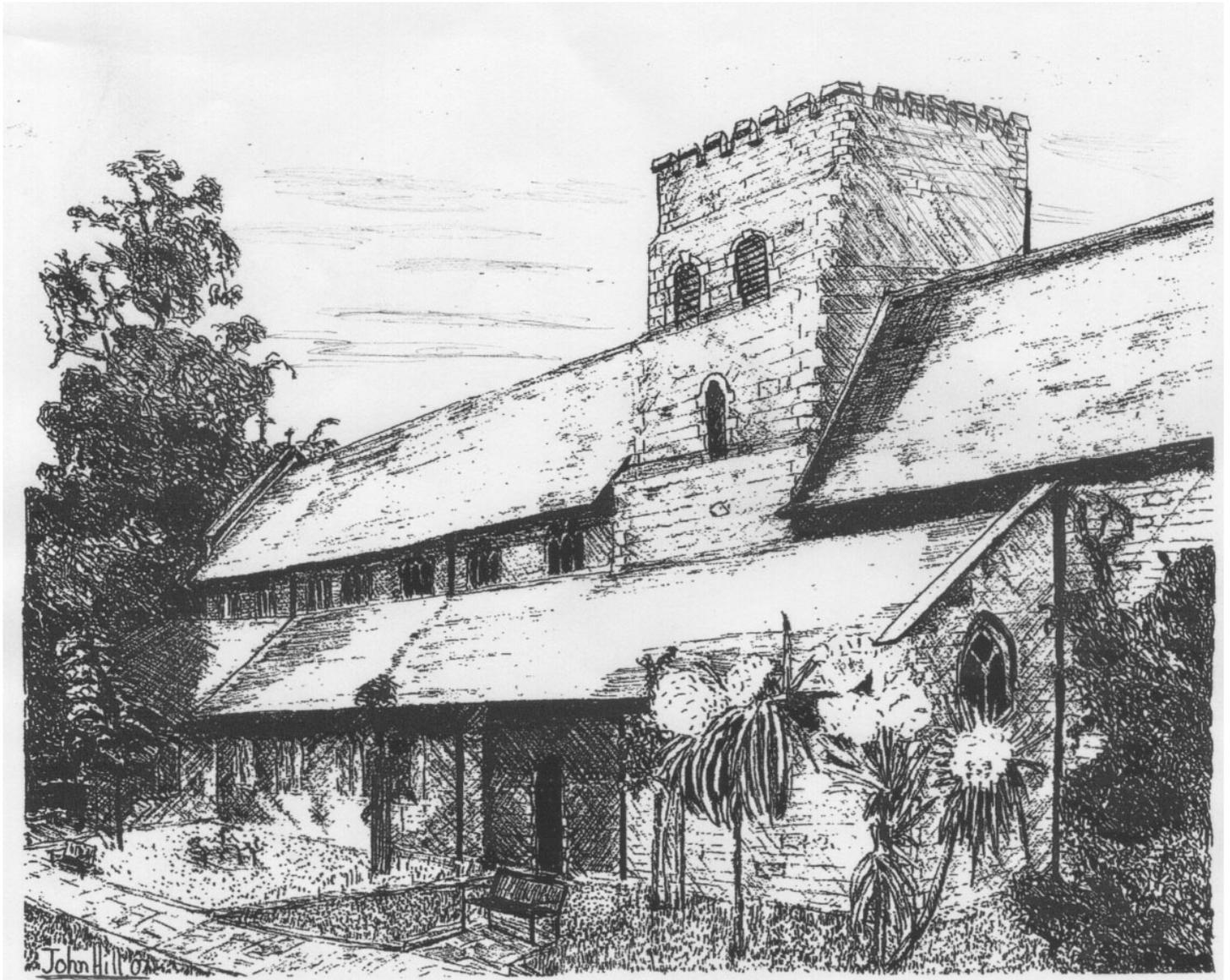


# CHRIST CHURCH MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

## PARISH MAGAZINE



John Hill 2007

**christian  
aid** **Week**

**May  
2008**

**11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> May**

Who's Who at Christ Church		<a href="http://www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk">www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk</a>
Vicar	Sue Brewer	352643 suec@brewer86.plus.com
Hon. Ass. Priest	Jacqueline Littlewood	560106
Hon. Ass. Priest	Peter Wibroe	
Church Warden	Christine Sewell	745443
Church Warden	Peter Shearan	566215
PCC Secretary	Julie Hill	568265
PCC Treasurer	Lawrence Aspinall	361718
Reader	Rosemary Austin	358702
Reader	Sheila Brown	356339
Reader	John Hougham	352138
Reader	Betty Martin	352696
Reader	Martin Sewell	745443

Deadline for June magazine: Sunday 25th May.  
Put on peg in the vestry, or hand to a Churchwarden,  
or email: [ianbbrown@phonecoop.coop](mailto:ianbbrown@phonecoop.coop)

#### Inside this month's magazine

Page 3 Welcome

Page 4 CCADS Does it Again

Page 6 Christian Aid

Page 7 Churches Together

Page 9 Mothers Union

Page 10 Letters to the editor

Page 11 God's Gang

Page 12 Explanation of God

Page 14 Music at Christ Church

Page 15 Calendar

Christ Church Hall  
is available for hire.  
Contact: Mrs Joan Bennett

01474 568585

Well equipped. Very  
suitable for meetings  
and children's parties.

# Welcome

Last month was a busy one with Easter, followed soon after by the visit of Bishop Michael and other churches in Gravesham for our Confirmation and Reaffirmation of faith service. CCADS produced a

splendid play - see page 4.

May promises to be busy in different ways with Christian Aid Week – see page 6, the MU Quiz and Quiet Day – page 9 and the RM Service.

Several other churches have advertised events in the magazine this month and are asking for our support and of course we have started collecting for our own Summer Fair in June, so let's see if we can continue to support each other as we did in April.

*Editor*

---

## Summer Fair 2008

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 2:30 pm.

To help make our Bumper Fair we need contributions to the stalls. A box will be placed at the back of the church on:-

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May – Toys, Puzzles, Games and anything  
YELLOW

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May – White Elephant and anything  
YELLOW

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May – White Elephant and anything  
YELLOW

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Gifts, unwanted presents and anything  
YELLOW

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June – Any of the above and anything  
YELLOW

Sheila Brown / Social Committee  
April 08

## CHRIST CHURCH ADS DOES IT AGAIN!

The 2008 CCADS Spring production proved another winner for the audiences, who - if the night I attended was anything to go by - enjoyed themselves hugely. *The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery* certainly provided enough material for laughs, and the five players took every advantage of them. We even had a warm-up man in the shape of Richard Aucott, who added to his usual introduction ("switch off mobile phones") with a couple of quips of his own. His busy Light and Sound Team earned several Brownie points ... as did the four stalwarts whose job it was to man the very busy backstage crew.

The opening music (Pink Panther) and the set, sparse but completely adequate, moved us forward to the opening introduction from Mrs Reece (Christine Kearsey). Having had a long experience myself of addressing Women's Institutes, I can vouch that she was the very model of a WI President: imperious and treating us all like children to be coaxed into doing things. The fact that at the end she managed to completely rewrite the script of the play that they were doing, so that, having got rid of the real villain, she was able to take over the role herself, was completely in character. Like everyone else in the cast she had a number of roles, including the French maid and the bumbling solicitor: all of which - if we were to believe anything in this crazy plot - she carried off beautifully.

The only member of the cast to play a single role (well, almost - he did get a quick "drag" entrance just before the interval!) was Gordon (playing Inspector O'Reilly) (Allister Kay). He had what was perhaps the best joke of all, when he was trying, in the best Hercule Poirot manner, to expose the criminal: "Don't worry, ladies, it's neither of you" when there were only three characters on stage. And who can forget the rewritten script: "look out, she's got a gnu!". We had a couple of instances of corpsing (or was that part of the script, too?), but John Hougham tells me that he was still laughing on the last night - and he was the director!

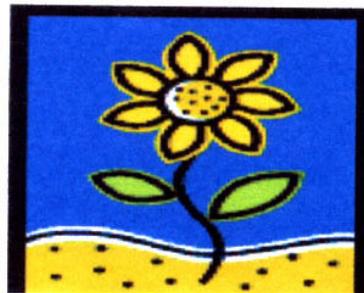
Janet Porter played Pawn, the butler, for all she was worth. The part required a great deal of athleticism, since there were several occasions when her exit as Pawn coincided with her entrance as Colonel King. The lopsided moustache just added to the fun. Her costume as Pawn was inspired, topped by that terrible wig, and her bent-over body. Thelma, Lady Bishop's daughter, played by Emily Stedman, gave us the perfect daughter of the big house. Her two-handed rendition with Gordon of "I could be happy with you" - cane and stick and all - which followed the script

mix-up in which the word “pain” kept occurring, were two of the highlights in the play. Audrey (Lynne Chesterton), as Lady Bishop, faced with all the mayhem going on around her, produced a well-observed character. Like all the other ladies she played three other members of her family, all of whom had unfortunate ends.

There were so many things I jotted down as the play progressed: the collapsing set, replaced upside down so that Gordon had difficulty warming himself at the ceiling-height fire; the chairs “dance” when the solicitor was to read the will; the clock striking; a terrible “North Country” accent; the door that wasn’t; props that were not there ... all carried off well, and adding to our enjoyment of what was, for the cast and director, a pretty difficult task. I think everyone in the audiences felt it well worth while to see CCADS doing it again ...entertaining us!

Peter Shearan

# Shorne Open Gardens



Saturday 17 & Sunday 18 May 2008  
2.00 - 5.30 on each day

Admission charge £5 to cover visits to  
gardens on both days

Accompanied children free

All proceeds to  
St Peter and St Paul Church  
Shorne

- \* Fourteen Gardens
- \* Refreshments
- \* Plant Sale
- \* Tickets from Shorne  
Village Store  
Participating Gardens  
on the Day or Phone  
01474 824186

If you enjoy visiting gardens, then a look at the garden at The Waterhole, the Headquarters of the 1st Windmill Scout Group, is worth it.





# Hope 2008

*Do more, do it together, do it in word and action.*

Hope '08 is a nationwide initiative by the churches to make a difference in their communities and around the world. The Gravesham Churches Together are arranging a number of events during the year. As part of this initiative we are asked to make an extra effort to support Christian Aid during Christian Aid Week.

The Missionary Committee are arranging the following events for Christian Aid.

**COFFEE MORNING** on Wednesday 7th May in the choir vestry after the 10:00 am service. There will be a raffle and a bring and buy table.

**BREAKFAST** on Sunday 11th May from 8:30 - 9:15 am. We will be using some Traidcraft products. Donations of homemade jam and marmalade would be welcome.

Please sign on the sheet in the west end if you hope to come.

**SPUD AND SAUSAGE** meal on Friday 18th July in the church hall. Please put this date in your diary. More details later.

We hope you will support these events and help make a difference to the lives of those in the developing world.

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK** is 11th - 17th May and envelopes will be given out on Sunday 4th May, so that we can bring in our donations on Sunday 11th May.



## Churches Together in Gravesham

Many people today seem to be concerned for our world. Global warming, the destruction of the rainforests, our increasingly unpredictable weather patterns, the finite supplies of many of the resources upon which our lifestyles depends.... These are all the issues that are causing anxiety in many people around the world. Not all Christians, however, are particularly well informed about these matters and the potential dangers that lie ahead, even though they know that the God in whom they trust is the Creator and Sustainer of our world and universe.

All these issues, and many more, will be drawn to our attention in three special events, to be held at approximately monthly intervals, in central Gravesend during the summer of 2008.

Churches Together in Gravesham is organising three key meetings when speakers and facilitators from well known Christian environmental and/or relief organisations will visit the town, each bringing a different slant and focus on the matters that are relevant to us all.

### DO YOU CARE ABOUT PLANET EARTH?

Churches Together in Gravesham invite you to The Salvation Army Citadel, The Grove, Gravesend to be informed and inspired-- and perhaps never the same again! Join us at 7.30pm on...

**WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2008: The Impact of Climate Change on some of the World's Poorest People - Isaac Kironday from Tear Fund**

**WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 2008: Why it's important for Christians to care for God's world - John Townsend from A Rocha**

**WEDNESDAY 16 JULY 2008: Restoring the connections between ourselves, others, the Earth and God - Chris Walton from Christian Ecology Link**

For more information, phone 01474 568498, and ask for the Church Office, or e-mail: [office.ebc@ctlconnect.co.uk](mailto:office.ebc@ctlconnect.co.uk)

# Christ Church

Summer

Saturday

Fair

7th June

Books Plants Cakes Games Toys

Raffles

Nearly new

Refreshments

WIN

£150

Start 2.30p.m.

by entering our car competition.

Hat &/ or picture competition on the rainbow theme for adults & children.

Admission 30p  
(children free)



**mothers union**  
christian care for families worldwide



is holding a **QUIZ NIGHT** on

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May**  
In Christ Church Hall at 7:30 pm.

Come and test your brain for £3 per person.

Come by yourself or make up a team (8 people).

Bring your own refreshments, pay on the night.

**Come and have FUN!**

*Veronica Read*



**mothers union**  
christian care for families worldwide

The Deanery MU Quiet Morning will be held in Christ Church on 6th May from 10 am - 12 pm. This will be led by Betty Martin and followed by a shared lunch. Everyone (MU member or not) is welcome to come and enjoy this time of quiet.



## A Good Wedding Cake

4 lb of love  
1 lb butter of youth  
½ lb of good looks  
1 lb sweet temper  
1 lb of blindness of faults  
1 lb of self forgetfulness  
1 lb of pounded wit  
1 lb of good humour  
2 tablespoons of sweet argument  
1 pint of rippling laughter  
1 wine glass of common sense  
1 oz of modesty

Put the love, good looks and sweet temper into a well furnished house. Beat the butter

of youth to a cream, and mix well together with the blindness of faults. Stir the pounded wit and good humour into the sweet argument, then add the rippling laughter and common sense. Work the whole together until everything is well mixed, and bake gently for ever.



## Letters



Thank you from everyone at Traidcraft for your continued support

and hard work during the last year. Your purchases from April 07 to March 08 were £2158.15. A great achievement!

### Volunteers needed

The local catering company 'Buss and Littlewood' are appealing for volunteers to make a loaf of sandwiches for lunch following the service of Remembrance for 48 Royal Marine Commando on 18th May.

Bread and fillings will be supplied on 17th May and need to be prepared for 11 am on 18th May. Please sign your name and put your address on the list at the back of the church.

Dear Editor,

Would you please put the text below into your parish magazine so as to promote a family Christian based event within the Parish of Chalk, Thanks.

### Chalk Village Fete

on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2008 – 11.30 am to 3 pm.

A great day out is in store for visitors to the Chalk Village Fete, which will be held on St Mary's Woodland, next to Chalk Church in Church Lane, Chalk. Entrance is free and there is plenty of car parking. There will be about 40 stalls and games as well as lunches and refreshments and a chance to go up the church tower to see fantastic views of Chalk Parish, its marshes and the surrounding area towards the Dartford Bridge and the Thames Estuary. Entrance is free and the fete opens at 11.30 am. It promises to be a great family and community day out for the people of Chalk and all the surrounding parishes - please come and join us.

Any questions, please contact Heather Bull on 01474 320156

**Christoph Bull**

# God's Gang

Have you checked out the Easter work on the web site? [www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk](http://www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk)

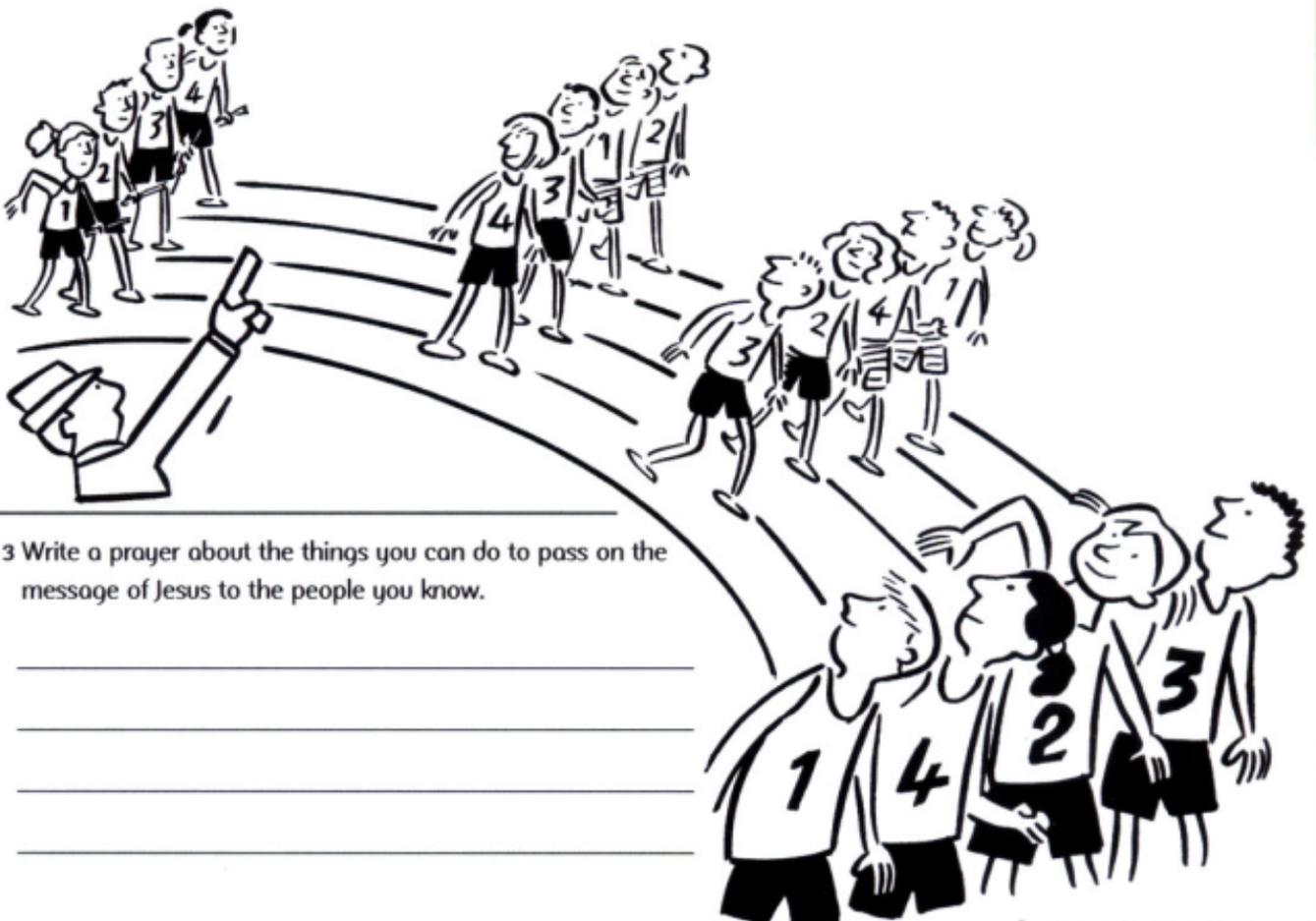
Jesus prayed, 'Father... I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.'  
John 17.4 (NRSV)



1 Here are two pictures of Jesus talking with his friends on the night before he died. Can you spot ten differences between them?



2 Passing on the message of Jesus is a bit like a relay race – each person telling another, who tells another, and then another. In this race the teams are waiting to start but have got in the wrong lanes. Draw a different coloured line for each team to join up its members.



3 Write a prayer about the things you can do to pass on the message of Jesus to the people you know.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## EXPLANATION OF GOD

*Although this delightful message has a Christian setting, there are some touching parts within that would be of interest to people of all faiths.*

*It was written by an 8-year-old named Danny Dutton, who lives in Chula Vista, CA.. He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to "explain God".*

*I wonder if any of us could have done as well?*

### EXPLANATION OF GOD

"One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth.

He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times besides bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your Mom and Dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in

Chula Vista.

At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and

performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him but he was good and kind, like his

father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.

His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary only more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God.

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

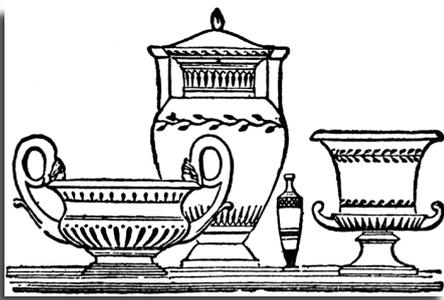
If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he take me back anytime he pleases.

And that's why I believe in God."

Thank you to Daphne Parsonson for this article.

Author: Danny Dutton.



## Soroptimist International of

Gravesend & District had a very successful Antiques Valuations and Craft Day on 8th March. This was advertised beforehand in our Church Magazine and this helped to attract a large number of people.

Mr Alan White, Fine Art Auctioneer, talked individually to over

60 people about their antiques. Telling them about the history of the object and what the current value was and in some cases actually letting them know what their item was and what it was made of. One large vase was made of glass, where the owner had thought it was some sort of china. Some people were really surprised at the value of their particular item and went away wondering how they could afford the insurance premium!

Around the hall we also had people displaying and demonstrating various crafts. We had a wood turner, a glass engraver, a porcelain painter, greetings cards made by quilling and decoupage, a country crafts table, a lady selling bean bags, children's dresses and various small items all made by hand. There were also 4 ladies from the Embroidery Guild showing their skills with patchwork and embroidery.

Soroptimists were on hand with tea, coffee and light snacks, the Danish Pastries were especially popular. The profit from the day went to our President's charities - The Stroke Association and Darent Valley Hospital.

We had a lot of requests to repeat the day next year - so watch this space.

Sheila Knight

Choir

# Music at Christ Church

Music Group

We are already practising music for Pentecost and for Choir Sunday in July.



Although it is only April and we have a long hot summer ahead of us (hopefully) we have started preparing for harvest by learning some new songs. So if you have a burning desire to swell the voices of the Music Group, now would be a good time to speak to either Gill or Helen. Helen would dearly like a few more men to join us!



*Gill Campbell Apr 08*

We are starting to get busy with weddings now that the Spring does seem to have eventually arrived.

Our youngest choir member Kerry Holder was confirmed at Christ Church by the Bishop of Rochester.

We offer Kerry our congratulations and we remember her in our prayers.

We will be featuring Weddings in June's magazine.

*Pam Kilby Apr 08*

## Flower Arrangers

There are a couple of vacancies on the Flower Arrangers Rota, to prepare the displays behind the altar each Sunday. Please don't be afraid to volunteer if this is something you enjoy. If you don't want to arrange flowers yourself every time, it is possible to make a donation for the flowers and Janice Stevens will arrange them for you. Janice will be happy to talk to you about it, if you would like more details.



Flower arrangement at Confirmation Service

What's on this month?

# May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
Highlights this month !  11 to 17 May				1 Ascension Day  Brownies Beavers	2  CCADS Scouts  Office	3 Working Party  Sweeps Festival Rochester
4  Youth Club	5 Bank Holiday  8 pm  Cubs	6	7  Guides	8 VE Day  Choir Brownies Beavers	9 Europe Day CCADS Scouts  Office hours	10  FA Trophy Final Ebbsfleet v Torquay Wembly
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Christian Aid Week						
Pentecost Christian Aid break- fast Youth club	Music Group 8 pm Cubs Brownies		First Steps PCC Meet- ing  Guides	Choir Brownies Beavers	CCADS Scouts  Office hours	FA Cup Final
18 Trinity Sunday  Youth Club	19  Cubs Brownies	20  Staff meeting 6pm	21  Guides	22 Corpus Christi  Choir Brownies Beavers	23  CCADS Scouts  Office hours	24  Scottish Cup Final
25  Youth club	26 Bank Holiday  Cubs Brownies	27	29  Guides	30  Choir Brownies Beavers	31 CCADS Scouts  Office hours	

# What happens at Christ Church?

## Sunday Services

8.00 am Holy Communion (said)

10.00am Communion with crèche & God's Gang

On the 2nd Sunday Uniformed Organisations parade

Evening Service - summer 6.30pm Winter 4.00pm

For further information contact  
the Church Wardens

## Weekday Services

Holy Communion (said)

Monday and Saturday 8am.

Tuesday & Thursday 7.00am.

Wednesday 10.00am

## Office hours

Please note that Office hours changed in March. The new time is 6:30pm until 7:30pm but is still on a Friday.

## Clubs

There are a wide variety of clubs for you:-

Daily Christ Church Pre-school (2½ upwards)

Monday Cubs; Music Group; Brownies

Tuesday

Wednesday Guides; Mothers Union (1st Wednesday)

First Steps (for Pre-School) 2nd Wednesday 1.45pm

Thursday Beavers; Brownies; Choir Practice

Friday Scouts; Amateur Dramatics; Parent and Toddler

Saturday Working party (1st Saturday)

Sunday Christ Church Youth Club